**Safety Audit Presentation**

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Regional Crisis Team Meeting

12/03/13

Presenters asked members asked to think of possible disasters.

Responses given: \*\*school bombing or shooting, \*\*weather emergencies, earthquake, toxin in food, shooting, deadly virus, \*\*murders, \*toxin in water, civil unrest, \*school bus hostage situation, \*massive drug overdose, meteor crash, \*event disaster such as a stampede, \*terrorist attack, \*\*sudden deaths, \*plane crash in the community.

Presenters asked which would be more possible in our area. “\*” designates those group considered to be more possible by the group. Consider how many of these were considered quite possible. Which are most likely? These are designated with “\*\*”.

Are we prepared? What resources and training do we need?

Presenters asked can anyone give an example of things that surprised us outside of these.

Response: Member recounts sexual molestation of a student via someone they met on the Internet. Another member recounts situation in which a school staff member was found to be abusing students.

Discussion ensued about concerns for possibilities of social media and technology use in crime, sharing of tragedy, and influence.

Presenter acknowledgement of the limitations of preparedness but the need for it as it is all that we can do and will mitigate the effects.

Presenters asked: What kind of training do we have and what do we need? How do we bring it back to our districts? How do we get through the politics involved in order to be prepared?

Members suggested that many of our drills do not involve the true stress of the possible event and may limit our effective preparedness. School staff members have found it too stressful or have resented more stressful drills such as surprise drills or simulated hostage situations.

Members expressed more interest in trauma mitigation training.

Member mentioned scenarios of managing so many secondary issues such as media, distraught parents insisting on answers and distracting those who need to lead, such as principals. Again there was a feeling that more training is important.

Presenters mentioned that one approach to crisis fall out may be to use scales and instruments to assess the wider student body for trauma effects in those students who may not at first seem to be as directly affected.

Some discussion of the need to identify personal difficulties or possible weaknesses which may come in to play in a difficult situation. Then this was widened to the importance or identifying organizational weaknesses which may come in to play.

Presenters mentioned: If tragedy strikes the hierarchy may need to change with the counselors perhaps taking a greater role. This may need to be discussed with administration as preparation.

Members acknowledged a degree of inconsistent regularity of building level crisis teams meetings and preparedness exercises.

Presenters mentioned that with APPR and budget cut focuses, perhaps some schools are allowing preparedness to fall a bit to the side.

Presenters suggested that perhaps the team or P/NW BOCES can help to impress upon school building administrators the importance of regular meetings and preparedness.

Member working as leave replacement mentions having moved from building to building and not having crisis protocol be sufficiently addressed with her. She mentions that she senses a wide range of preparedness across the schools she has known.

One member mentioned being an advocate of having a police presence in the schools in order to provide a sense of broader community. He sees it as an opportunity to create helpful relationships with staff and students.

Presenters asked: Would it be helpful to have a police representative come to a meeting to discuss? There was mild positive response to this.

Presenters suggested that what we know about crisis is quite small, and what we know that we don’t know is also quite small, but what we don’t know that we don’t know is quite large.

Members were asked for final thoughts. Themes included the need to follow up and the need to build relationships with fellow staff. Members thought they would go back to districts and ask related questions. Members were thankful for the presentation.

In closing, presenters suggest that we must not forget these various issues we discussed and not lose sight of what we need to do to become more prepared.